



# Fighting for the Vote:

## Girl Scouts Suffrage Centennial Toolkit

COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY, WASHINGTON D.C.



*Factory workers picket,  
February 1917*

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GSUSA recognizes and appreciates the local council efforts to recognize the importance of voting rights and civic engagement through [their individual activity guides](#).

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## The Girl Scout Suffrage Centennial Patch Program

The Girl Scout Suffrage Centennial Patch Program gives your troop a chance to explore the history of voting and women through lots of great information and fun activities. The materials and activities in this toolkit are provided to prompt girls to discover the history of women's voting rights and civic engagement, connect and have multigenerational conversations within their communities, and better understand the gender barriers that have been broken and celebrate the women who broke them. Ultimately, this will reaffirm Girl Scouts' civic purpose, strengthen the future impact of girls' advocacy, and inspire girls to create projects that share their experiences with others and to take action in their own communities.

Historic narratives, biographies of suffragists, online resources and exhibits, a timeline of suffrage milestones, and a glossary of terms are also included to provide background information that will enhance girls' experience during the centennial of suffrage in 2020.

### 19TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

*The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.*

*Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.*



[Order your Suffrage Centennial patch](#) once you complete the patch requirements and wear it proudly!

*On June 10, 1919, Michigan and Wisconsin were the first states to ratify the 19th Amendment.*

*The last state to ratify was Mississippi, in 1984.*

# An Overview of Women's Voting Rights in America

Did you know that it's only been 100 years since the United States Constitution recognized voting as a right for women? Before the Nineteenth Amendment granted women the right to vote, they struggled to achieve the rights of full citizenship. The suffrage movement was the first time women across our nation organized to publicly demand the same voting rights and privileges as men.

When you open a dictionary and look up the word suffrage, you will find that it means the right to vote. Our country is a democracy, identified by the phrase "one person, one vote," but the early framework of our government did not give the right to vote to everyone.

## Who Voted in Early America?

In 1776, Abigail Adams urged her husband John to "remember the ladies" when the Continental Congress was discussing who should have the right to vote. Unfortunately, when the U.S. Constitution was drafted in Philadelphia in 1787, participation in this new democracy included only white men who met the religious, property, and tax-paying criteria. It called for each state to determine who would be allowed to vote. For a time, women in New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New Jersey could vote, but by 1807, all four states had revoked voting rights for women.

This changed in 1869, when the Wyoming Territory legislature granted women the rights to vote and hold public office. Almost 30 years later, women in Colorado, Utah, and Idaho had also won voting rights. Between 1910 and the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1919, women gained the right to vote in eighteen more states, but most American women were still disenfranchised. That changed in August 1920 when Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment granting women the right to vote and the Nineteenth Amendment became law. It had taken 133 years for the U.S. Constitution to grant women the same voting rights and privileges as men.

*Elizabeth Cady Stanton, seated, and Susan B. Anthony, standing, were friends who worked side by side for decades on suffrage and women's rights issues.*



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## The Early Suffrage Movement

In 1848, early in the suffrage movement, many women gathered in Seneca Falls, New York, to demand changes to the social, legal, and educational rules that hindered women from achieving economic equality and the right to vote. After the Civil War, the passage of the Fourteenth Amendment gave voting rights to all male citizens over the age of 21. And the Fifteenth Amendment strengthened voting rights for citizens regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, explicitly giving voting rights to black men and former slaves, but not to women.

## Anti-Suffrage

The official campaign to extend voting rights to women began in Seneca Falls and ended with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. Today, women's participation in politics and civic engagement is expected, but back then both men and women worked to suppress women's right to vote. Some believed that women should focus solely on their husband and children, while others thought that women could not understand politics or that having their own opinions was unladylike.



*Above: Is the "Women's Rights" button pro or con? This anti-suffrage button warned that empowered women would do unladylike things such as baring their ankles.*

*Left: Suffragists picketed outside the White House with banners asking the President to support suffrage.*



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY, WASHINGTON DC.

## The Young Are at the Gates

By 1912 founders of the suffrage movement, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, and Lucretia Mott, had passed away. The bold younger women who followed them began to use tactics and strategies employed by the British suffragettes, such as protesting the government and publicly demanding their right to vote. Many were arrested and sent to jail for their actions. Two young American women, Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, met after they were both arrested for protesting in England. Once back in America, they used the same protest methods. They sewed large banners emblazoned with brash rallying cries, such as "The Young Are At The Gates" and "Mr. President What Will You Do For Woman Suffrage." They carried the banners in parades and protested in front of the White House gates. While the public and many fellow suffragists did not approve of their actions, they did get results.

## From Action to Victory

Between 1913 and 1919 women across the country marched in local parades and carried banners demanding the right to vote. They launched extensive letter-writing campaigns to their state legislators and to newspapers, to educate the public about suffrage and gain the support of male voters. In Washington, DC, when suffragists increased their protests in front of the White House, police arrested them on charges of disturbing the peace and blocking the sidewalk. The women were sent to the District of Columbia jail or the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia, where they were kept in squalid conditions. Many protested by going on hunger strikes and were then force-fed by the prison doctors. When the public found out about their brutal treatment, many were outraged and began to support suffrage.

COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY, WASHINGTON DC.



## SUFFRAGE TIMELINE

### National Park Service

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/us-suffrage-timeline-1648-to-2016.htm>

Want to know more about the history of women's voting rights? Follow this link for a comprehensive timeline going back to 1648! It includes information on failed and successful attempts at changes in law, including at the state and federal levels, on how women's suffrage has been interlaced with quests for other civil rights, and on some key court cases. It spans the years from 1648, when Margaret Brent demanded but was denied a vote in Maryland's colonial assembly, through 2016, when Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument was designated.

*When the prisoners were released from the Occoquan Workhouse, they went on a nationwide speaking tour called the "Prison Special" to raise awareness.*

## Girl Scouts and the Suffrage Movement

In 1912 Juliette called her cousin Nina Pape and exclaimed “I’ve got something for the girls of Savannah, and all America, and all the world, and we’re going to start to-night.” From that time forward Juliette used her considerable energy to build a movement centered around girls being of service to their country. As the fight for suffrage continued, the public viewed it largely as a political fight. Girl Scouts agreed, and did not formally support suffrage, seeing it as a political cause.

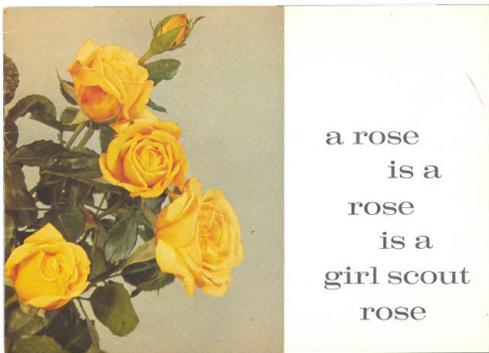
On a personal level, there were women such as Edith Carpenter Macy and Sarah Birdsall Otis Edey who were not only key leaders in the Girl Scout Movement, they were also suffragists actively working for the cause. Macy, Chair of the Executive Committee of the National Board from 1919–1925, was active in the League of Women Voters, and Edey hosted suffrage events in her New York home. After the passage of women’s suffrage in 1920, girls across the country cared for infants and children near polling stations so their mothers could exercise their new right to vote in political elections. They wore the recognizable and familiar Girl Scout uniform and were a welcome sight for both mothers and fathers, who eagerly handed children over to the girls while they went inside to cast their votes.

Today, we continue Juliette’s work by engaging in multi-generational conversations to broaden the understanding of suffrage achievements while renewing our commitment to civic purpose and girl’s advocacy.



*In 1920 Girl Scouts across the country cared for children outside polling places while their mothers (and fathers) went to vote.*

## YELLOW ROSES



*Did you know that both Girl Scouts and the suffrage movement used the yellow rose as a symbol? There is even a rose named specifically for Girl Scouts!*

Both Girl Scouts and Suffragists have a special history the yellow rose. Suffragists relied heavily on images, colors, and cartoons to enhance their message of “Votes for Women.” Those who were pro-suffrage proudly wore a yellow rose to show their support, while anti-suffragists wore a red rose. In the final days of the push for ratification in Nashville, Tennessee, the local media dubbed it “the war of the roses.”

The Girl Scout rose, a yellow Floribunda, was introduced in the fall of 1960 at the triennial convention in anticipation of the 50th birthday celebration on March 12, 1962. “Blossoms for the Birthday Years,” as the Girl Scout celebration was called, promoted planting Girl Scout roses or, if roses were not suited to the climate, any other yellow flower, in order to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

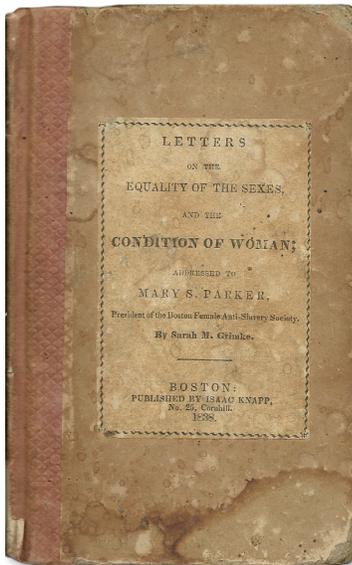
## When Were Women of Color Granted the Vote?

When the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified in 1920, it lifted the gender restriction on voting and should have allowed all women to vote. Indeed, in those early years, African-American women voted in elections and even held political office. However, many states then passed laws discriminating against African Americans, limiting their rights by enacting poll taxes and literacy tests or through threats, intimidation, and outright physical violence. Nevertheless, African American women continued to fight for their rights. Educator and political advisor Mary McLeod Bethune formed the National Council of Negro Women in 1935 to pursue civil rights. Tens of thousands of African-Americans worked over many decades to ban racial discrimination in voting, which was finally achieved when the Voting Rights Act passed in 1965.

Women of color, including immigrants, indigenous people, and Hispanic women, all waited decades longer than white women to be enfranchised and allowed to cast their votes unimpeded. Even the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 did not give most nonwhite Hispanic and indigenous people the right to vote. For some, voting rights didn't come until the 1950s, and in some rural areas, even later.

## ANTI-SLAVERY AND SUFFRAGE

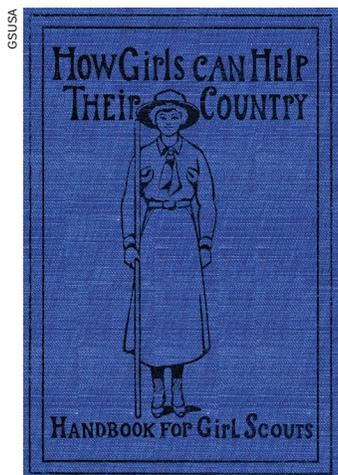
COURTESY OF THE ANN LEWIS AND MIKE SPONDER WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COLLECTION



In 1807, the Slave Trade Act abolished the transport of slaves from Africa. This action inspired many religious communities such as the Quakers to work in the abolition movement to rid America of slavery. In 1832, free African American women organized the first entirely female abolitionist group, called the Salem Female Anti-Slavery Society. Within the next several years, other organizations were formed by white women primarily from antislavery societies in northern states. Susan B. Anthony, Eleanor Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and many others worked to end slavery and ensure voting rights for women. In 1838, Sara Moore Grimké published the pamphlet *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Women*, calling for greater gender equity and especially for women to have the right to vote. She, along with her sister, Angelina Grimké Weld, regularly lectured on abolition and women's rights. In 1858, Sojourner Truth delivered her famous "I Am as Strong as Any Man" speech in Akron, Ohio. Born into slavery in New York in 1797, Truth became an itinerant preacher lecturing widely on abolitionism and suffrage. Ultimately, the 1861 outbreak of the Civil War ushered in the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment outlawing slavery. In 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment gave African American men the right to vote.

During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, African American women played an active role in the struggle for universal suffrage. However, despite their hard work, organizations were often segregated along racial lines. For example, the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) prevented them from attending their conventions, and organizers of the 1913 Suffrage Procession held in Washington, DC, instructed them to march in the back. In reality, African American women played an important role in getting the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments passed, as well as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

## A Commitment to Community Service and Civic Education



How Girls Can Help Their Country, the first Girl Scout handbook, published in 1913

Two years before women in America even had the right to vote, Girl Scouts created the first Civics badge! Created in 1918, Juliette Gordon Low knew that community service was a key value of Girl Scouting. The first handbook was called *How Girls Can Help Their Country* and included sections on “Hospital Work” and “Patriotism.”

By 1918, the U.S. had entered World War I, and Girl Scouts continued their community service by providing support for the war effort by selling war bonds, rolling bandages, and growing their own food. When the Spanish flu pandemic struck that same year, they volunteered in hospitals. The introduction of a Civics badge was a natural fit with their activities. To earn the badge, girls learned about the government as it affected their everyday lives:

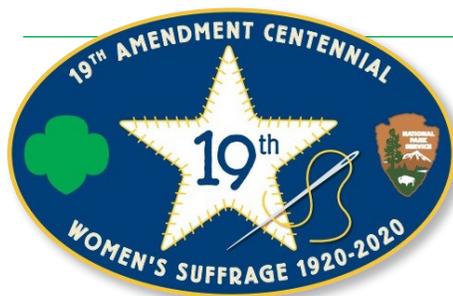
how officials at the federal, state, and local levels were elected and what services they provided. They also learned about the requirements to vote, the purpose of the Declaration of Independence, and important points of interest in their own city or town.

During the next two years, suffragists actively pursued the vote. The Nineteenth Amendment was drafted, approved by Congress, and sent to the states for ratification. That same year, Girl Scouts rolled out a new badge to replace the Civics badge: the Citizens badge. It incorporated many of the same requirements of the Civics badge, but with some new twists: How do laws get made in your state? To whom in government would you go if you needed help for a child who is not in school or a break in the water main in the street? What political party would you join, and why? What can you do to improve the government of your community?

The badge had moved from being one that encouraged girls to understand the world they lived in to one that encouraged girls to actively participate in changing the world they lived in—for the better. The Citizen badges are STILL important badges for girls in 2020, as are the brand new Civics badges!



Girl Scout Civics badge, 1918



### EARN (AND LEARN) MORE!

The National Park Service and GSUSA are co-sponsoring the Girl Scout Ranger 19th Amendment Patch Program, which can be found [here](#). If you are interested in exploring suffrage further, completing the Girl Scout Ranger 19th Amendment Patch is a great way to do it!

# A Gallery of Activists



**Carrie Chapman Catt** became involved in the suffrage movement in the late 1880s and eventually became the president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). She devised the “Winning Plan,” which carefully coordinated state suffrage campaigns with the drive for a constitutional amendment. After the 19th Amendment was ratified, Catt founded the League of Women Voters to educate women on political issues and served as its honorary president until her death in 1947.



**Mabel Ping-Hua Lee** was a Chinese woman raised in New York City who fought for women’s right to vote, riding in a 1912 pro-suffrage parade on horseback. Because the Chinese Exclusion Act barred Chinese immigrants from the process of naturalization until 1943, the passage of the right to vote had no effect on her personal ability to vote. She was the first woman to graduate from Columbia University with a Ph.D. (in economics).



*Alice Paul sewed the final star on the ratification flag after Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment.*

**Alice Paul** joined women’s suffrage efforts in England while studying there. On returning to the United States, she became active in the U.S. suffrage movement, lobbying Congress for a constitutional amendment and organizing protests, including the famous parade prior to Woodrow Wilson’s first inauguration. She joined over 1,000 others in picketing the White House for 18 months. After the 19th Amendment was ratified, she devoted herself to equal rights for women, authoring the Equal Rights Amendment (which has still not become a constitutional amendment).

**Mary Church Terrell** was one of the first African American women to earn a college degree. She became known as a national activist for civil rights and suffrage, helping found the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) and serving as its first president. She was also one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She fought for woman suffrage and civil rights because she realized that she belonged “to the only group in this country that has two such huge obstacles to surmount...both sex and race.”

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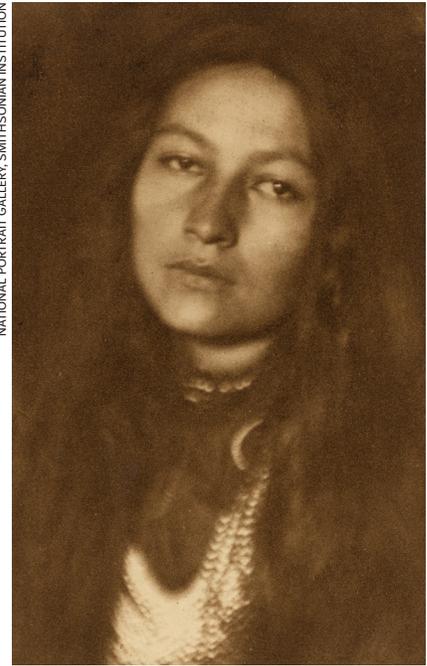
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**Sojourner Truth**, born into slavery in New York state and named Isabella Baumfree, escaped to freedom in 1826. In her mid-forties, she became a Methodist and changed her name to Sojourner Truth. She began speaking around the country against slavery and for equal rights for both women and blacks. Her memoirs, *Narrative of Sojourner Truth, a Northern Slave*, were published in 1850. She spoke at the Second Annual Convention of the American Woman Suffrage Association in 1871.



**Ida B. Wells-Barnett** was born into slavery during the Civil War. She became a teacher and then a journalist (she co-owned the newspaper she wrote for). She documented lynching in the United States in the 1890s and fought against racism as well as for women's suffrage, believing that enfranchisement was a way for black women to influence politics. She helped found the Alpha Suffrage Club in Chicago, which played a significant role in electing the first African American alderman in Chicago.



**Zitkála-Šá** (Lakota for Red Bird or Cardinal) was a Yankton Dakota Sioux writer and political activist who was later known as Gertrude Simmons Bonnin. She was cofounder of the National Council of American Indians, established to lobby for Native people's right to full citizenship through suffrage. She was also active in the 1920s in the movement for women's rights. She continued to work for civil rights and better access to health care and education for Native Americans until her death in 1938.

## SUFFRAGISTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE GIRL SCOUT MOVEMENT

GSUSA



*Birdsall Otis Edey and Girl Scouts at the Rally in Central Park, New York, 1920. As a major supporter of both Girl Scouts and the suffrage movement, she often hosted suffrage events at her home.*

**(Sarah) Birdsall “Bird” Otis Edey** served the Girl Scouts in a variety of roles, beginning as captain of a troop in Bellport, New York, and finishing as national president of the Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) from 1930-1935. In 1935, she was named National Commissioner, an office created especially for her, in which she served until her death in 1940. Edey was an active participant in the suffrage movement as early as 1916, serving as an officer in various suffrage organizations and hosting suffrage-related events at her home on Long Island. After women acquired the vote in New York, Edey served as chair of the intelligence committee of the New York State League of Women Voters. Indeed, her work with the Girl Scouts convinced her that scouting “offered preparation for citizenship.”

**Edith Wiseman Carpenter Macy** chaired the Girl Scouts National Executive Board from 1919 until her unexpected death in 1925. Juliette Gordon Low called her “an evenly balanced woman” who “really was the pivot that kept our whole organization in harmony.” She founded the Westchester County Girl Scout Council and was well known for her extensive charity work. Active in suffrage and later in the League for Women Voters, her husband shared her progressive views. In her memory, he donated 200 acres and \$100,000 toward what became the Edith Macy Conference Center in Briarcliff Manor, New York, which still hosts Girl Scout training programs today.



**Helen Storror** came from a family heavily involved in social reform. Her mother was vice president of the New York State Woman’s Suffrage Association and her aunt was Lucretia Mott, the abolitionist. She became involved with Girl Scouts when she began the First National Girl Scout Leaders’ Training Program at her Massachusetts summer home. She served as first vice president of the national organization and eventually chaired the World Committee of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). As chair of the Eastern States Exhibition’s “Home Department”, she included in the exhibit a room dedicated to the process of voting, wanting all women to feel at ease with the voting booth once the 19th Amendment was passed into law.

**Mamie George S. Williams** is best known as the first African-American woman appointed to the Republican National Committee as well as the first woman to speak on the floor of the Republican National Convention that year (1920). Her civic involvement began during WWI with the Red Cross and Liberty Loan drives but moved into politics after the passage of the 19th Amendment. She fought relentlessly to get African-American women in Georgia registered to vote in the 1920 presidential election. Williams was one of the early African-American Girl Scout troop leaders in her hometown of Savannah, eventually having a troop named after her.

# Fast Facts About Suffrage

**Q:** Didn't American women call themselves "suffragettes?"

**Fast Fact:** The term "suffragette" began in England and was a derogatory term coined by the press. Instead of letting it diminish their efforts, the women adopted the term and continued to use it throughout their campaign. American women largely self-identified as "suffragists," so that's still how we refer to them today.

**Q:** Did men or women oppose women gaining the right to vote?

**Fast Fact:** Both men and women joined anti-suffrage organizations. Called "antis," these groups opposed voting rights for women for many inaccurate reasons, including that women were too sensitive to vote, that women might neglect their children and husbands if they took time to vote, and that if women were involved in politics they would become "coarse" and would no longer be the "gentler sex."



*Postcards were used by both suffrage supporters and anti-suffragists. Do you think this is for or against suffrage?*



**Q:** Did the 19th Amendment give all American women the right to vote in 1920?

**Fast Fact:** The amendment removed the gender restriction to voting, which should have enabled all American women to vote. The amendment states "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." However, many women (and men) of color were denied the right to vote through physical violence and racially restrictive laws such as poll taxes and literacy tests.

**Q:** Were all suffrage organizations racially segregated?

**Fast Fact:** No. Some organizations were integrated, and their members worked together for universal suffrage and women's rights. Other organizations were segregated and advocated for voting rights that were for educated whites only.

**Q:** Did Suffragists use the cat or the dog as a symbol to represent their work to achieve voting rights?

**Fast Fact:** Anti-suffrage organizations in England claimed that a woman voting was as ridiculous as a cat voting. Suffragists around the world then began to use images of cats in their publications as they demanded their right to vote, and Suffrage Cat was born!



POSTCARDS AND BUTTON COURTESY OF THE ANN LEWIS AND MIKE SPONDER WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COLLECTION

# Women's Suffrage Reading List

## For Adult Readers:

- Adams, Katherine H. and Michael L. Keene. *After the Vote Was Won: The Later Achievements of Fifteen Suffragists*. McFarland & Company Publishers, 2010.
- Cooney Jr., Robert P.J. *Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement*. American Graphic Press, 2005.
- Dudden, Faye E. *Fighting Chance: The Struggle Over Woman Suffrage and Black Suffrage in Reconstruction America*. New York: Oxford, 2011.
- Giddings, Paula J. Ida: *A Sword Among Lions*. New York: HarperCollins, 2009.
- Gordon, Ann D., and Bettye Collier-Thomas, Eds. *African American Women and the Vote 1837-1965*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1997.
- Painter, Nell Irvin. *Sojourner Truth: A Live, A Symbol*. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1997.
- Schuyler, Lorraine Gates. *The Weight of Their Votes: Southern Women and Political Leverage in the 1920s*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006.
- Terborg-Penn, Rosalyn. *African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850-1920*. Indiana University Press, 1998.
- Tetrault, Lisa. *The Myth of Seneca Falls: Memory and the Women's Suffrage Movement*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014.
- Weiss, Elaine. *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. Viking Press, 2018.
- Wheeler, Marjorie Spruill. *Votes for Women! The Woman Suffrage Movement in Tennessee, the South, and the Nation*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1995.

Want to learn more?  
Here are some  
books and articles  
to give you more  
information!



COURTESY OF THE ANN LEWIS AND MIKE SPONDER WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COLLECTION



Girls teamed up to sell the Suffragist newspaper to raise money for the campaign.

## For Younger Readers

Bausman, Ann. *With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote*

Blumenthal, Karen. *Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX: The Law That Changed the Future of Girls in America*

Chin-Lee, Cynthia, and Halsey, Megan. *Amelia to Zora: Twenty-Six Women Who Changed the World*

Hollihan, Kerrie Logan. *Rightfully Ours: How Women Won the Vote, 21 Activities*

Kamma, Anne. *If You Lived When Women Won Their Rights*

Karr, Kathleen. *Mama Went to Jail for the Vote*

Myers, Walter Dean. *Ida B. Wells: Let the Truth Be Told*

Rockliff, Mara, and Hooper, Hadley. *Around America to Win the Vote: Two Suffragists, a Kitten, and 10,000 Miles*

Ruth, Janice. *Women of the Suffrage Movement (Women Who Dare)*

Stewart, Louise Kay, and Knight, Eve Lloyd. *Rebel Voices: Global Fight for Women's Equality and the Right to Vote*

Weiss, Elaine. *The Woman's Hour (Adapted for Young Readers): Our Fight for the Right to Vote*

White, Linda Arms, and Carpenter, Nancy. *I Could Do That!: Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote*

# Resources

## National Park Service: Ratification of the 19th Amendment

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/womenshistory/19th-amendment.htm>

Use this site to discover some of the stories about people who fought for women's suffrage. You'll find resources for children and adults, including essays on suffrage, story maps, and lesson plans.

## Truth-Telling: Frances Willard and Ida B. Wells

<https://scalar.usc.edu/works/willard-and-wells/index>

In 1894 and 1895, Frances Willard, president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and Ida B. Wells, the journalist and anti-lynching activist, fought a war of words in the press. This digital exhibit explores the details of the conflict and examines Willard's failure of leadership on the question of lynching, helping us understand what this story means for Willard's legacy and the larger history of racism in American women's movements.

## Schlesinger Library's Suffrage School

<https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/suffrage-school>

The Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America documents the lives of women of the past and present for the future. Watch the Suffrage School videos to learn more about women's equality and civic engagement and sign up to be notified when new videos are released.

## The Ann Lewis Women's Suffrage Collection

<https://lewissuffragecollection.omeka.net/>

The Ann Lewis Women's Suffrage Collection is a privately owned collection amassed over 20 years. It is comprised of more than 1,200 books, objects, correspondence, periodicals, lobbying materials, postcards, and more.

## Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

<https://www.womensvote100.org>

This site has a variety of resources about the story of the 19th Amendment and women's fight for the ballot, including some directed to kids.

The WSCC has partnered with the Girl Scouts of the USA to underwrite the costs of the Girl Scouts' Votes for Women 1920-2020 Patch for the first 7,000 girls to earn the suffrage history patch. The youngest Girl Scouts who earn the patch will also receive a copy of the WSCC's custom centennial edition of *Around America to Win the Vote* by author Mara Rockliff, and tween and teen Girl Scouts who earn the patch will receive the new young reader edition of the critically acclaimed book *The Woman's Hour* by author Elaine Weiss.

## The Women's Vote Centennial Initiative (WVCI)

<https://www.2020centennial.org/>

This site provides links to state and local suffrage activities, exhibits, suffrage quizzes for both kids and adults, and much more.



## What Councils Are Doing

Want more information and activities? Follow these links to other Girl Scout Suffrage Centennial patch programs, sponsored by these Girl Scout councils:

[Central Indiana](#)

[Central Maryland](#)

[Colonial Coast \(NC\)](#)

[Colonial Coast \(VA\)](#)

[Heart of the South](#)

[Kentucky's Wilderness Road](#)

[Maine](#)

[Nation's Capital](#)

[New York \(Combined\)](#)

[Sierra Nevada](#)

[Southeastern New England](#)

[Southern Arizona](#)

[Texas \(Combined\)](#)

[Utah](#)

[Western Ohio](#)

## Because of Her Story (Smithsonian Institute)

<https://womenshistory.si.edu/about>

This initiative uses technology to amplify a diversity of women's voices throughout the Smithsonian's many museums. Check out the "Votes for Women" section at <https://www.si.edu/spotlight/votes-for-women>, or explore some of the other women-related topics they have curated.

## Exhibits

### National Portrait Gallery

*Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence*

Full Tour of Exhibit: <https://www.c-span.org/person/?katelemay>

Selections from the Exhibit: <https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/2AKyZX3r7pZoJA>

Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence was open at the National Portrait Gallery March 2019 to January 2020. The exhibit featured more than 120 portraits and objects spanning 1832 to 1965 that explore the American suffrage movement and the political challenges women faced. The curator of the exhibit, Kate Clarke Lemay, talks about the exhibit in two videos available at the C-Span link above, and selections of the exhibit can be seen at the Google Arts and Culture link above.

### Library of Congress

*Shall Not be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote*

<https://www.loc.gov/exhibitions/women-fight-for-the-vote/about-this-exhibition/>

Exhibit Video: <https://vimeo.com/341006311>

Although this physical exhibit is not currently open to the public due to the COVID-19 virus, many parts of it can be seen online.

### National Archives

*Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote*

<https://museum.archives.gov/rightfully-hers>

The National Archives has seven online exhibits related to women's voting rights as well as a video with the curator.

## Historic Sites and Museums

### National Woman's Party / Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument

<https://www.nationalwomansparty.org/>

Learn more about the National Woman's Party, one of the early advocates for suffrage, as well as the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument at this site. You can also go directly to the monument's site by following this link: <https://www.nps.gov/bepa/index.htm>.



COURTESY OF THE ANN LEWIS AND MIKE SPONDER WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COLLECTION

*Produced by the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association in 1915. Hanging this in a window of your home showed that you supported women's suffrage.*

### Women's Rights National Historic Park

<https://www.nps.gov/wori/index.htm>

Women's Rights National Historical Park tells the story of the first Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19 to 20, 1848. Visit this site to learn more about the convention, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and others in the movement.

### National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel

<https://www.civilrightsmuseum.org/learn>

When it comes to civil rights, it's important not only to learn about historical milestones but also to interpret them in a way that applies to today's challenges. The National Civil Rights Museum champions educational programming and offers visitors a full immersion experience. Among other things, this site offers resources aimed at students.

### National Women's History Museum

<https://www.womenshistory.org/students-and-educators>

The National Women's History Museum places women's history alongside current historical exhibitions. While there are lots of wonderful online exhibits you might want to check out, be sure to visit the Crusade for the Vote: Suffrage Resource Center.

### Turning Point Suffragist Memorial

<https://suffragistmemorial.org/>

Although the building of the memorial is currently on hold, this site has both an educational section and a blog worth your time.

### Mary McLeod Bethune

<https://www.nps.gov/mamc/index.htm>

Mary McLeod Bethune was a world-renowned educator, civil rights champion, leader of women, and presidential advisor. Her home was the first headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). Take the virtual tour to learn more about her and the NCNW.



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY, WASHINGTON D.C.

*Young suffragist at the headquarters of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage in Washington, D.C.*

# Glossary

**Don't know some of the words in this toolkit? Check out their definitions (in the context we've used them) below:**

**Abolition:** the act of officially stopping something, especially slavery

**Amendment:** an alteration to a law or document, especially the United States Constitution

**Continental Congress:** body of representatives of the 13 original colonies of the United States

**Desegregation:** the act of eliminating any practice or law requiring isolation of the members of a particular race in separate units

**Emancipation:** the process of freeing people from the control of another, especially from the bondage of slavery

**Emblazoned:** adorned; covered with

**Enfranchisement:** the giving of a right, especially the right to vote

**Expatriation:** the removal from one's native land; banishment

**Franchise:** a constitutional right, especially the right to vote

**Haudenosaunee:** the alliance among six Native American nations—known as Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora—that is more commonly known as the Iroquois Confederacy

**Indigenous:** native; original to the place

**Itinerant:** traveling from place to place

**Jim Crow Laws:** state and local laws designed to keep blacks from voting that included literacy tests and poll taxes

**John Adams:** integral member of the Continental Congress and a signer of the Declaration of Independence

**Naturalization:** the act of becoming a citizen of a country other than the country where one was born

**Petition:** a written request for change signed by many people in support of a shared cause or concern

**Poll Tax:** a payment required in order to cast a ballot

**Ratification:** formal confirmation of something, especially a constitutional amendment

**Second Continental Congress:** body of representatives of the 13 original colonies of the United States that declared the United States' independence from Great Britain

**Servitude:** the state of being a slave or completely subject to someone else's power

**Sorority:** a club of women, especially students, formed mostly for social purposes and having a name consisting of Greek letters

**Squalid:** extremely dirty and unpleasant

**Suffrage:** the right to vote

**Suffragette/Suffragist:** a woman seeking the right to vote through organized protest. In Great Britain, they were known as suffragettes, but in the United States, they were called suffragists.

**Triennial:** recurring every three years

**Universal suffrage (also called universal franchise, general suffrage, and common suffrage of the common man):** the right to vote of all adult citizens, regardless of wealth, income, gender, social status, race, ethnicity, or any other restriction, subject only to relatively minor exceptions



# Earn Your Suffrage Centennial Patch: A Guide for Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors

The Suffrage Centennial patch offers you a way to learn more about the history of voting, why it affects all of our lives, and how you can make a difference in your community. To earn your patch, complete 3 of the options under “Discover”; 2 of the options under “Connect”; and 1 of the options under “Take Action”. And when you’re finished, [order your own suffrage patch](#) from Girl Scouts of the USA! And wear it proudly.

## OBJECTIVE

To earn your Suffrage Centennial patch, you’ll explore why voting matters, find out about voting in your own community, and take an action to persuade others to support a cause that is important to you.

### **DISCOVER: Learn about voting and suffrage.**

(Do three activities from the following list.)

- Have you ever been to a voting booth? What was it like?
- Ask an adult in your family what they do in a voting booth?
- Do you know what they have voted for?
- What does it mean to vote? Is it important? Why or why not?
- Does voting make you a good neighbor?

### **CONNECT: Talk to your community.**

(Do two activities from the following list.)

- Do the adults you know vote? Ask them why or why not?
- Find out where a voting location is in your town.
- Speak with an adult in your family and ask what they vote for.



## BACKGROUND

Girl Scouts was founded in the final years of the suffrage campaigns, and many women supported both movements. For example, Edith Carpenter Macy and Mamie Williams were both suffragists.

Early on, Girl Scouts placed importance on understanding democracy and government, beginning in 1918 with the first Civics badge and followed in 1920 by a Citizens badge. This continues to be very important to Girl Scouts.

**Explore More:** To learn more about suffragists and their fight for the right to vote, download the complete [Suffrage Centennial Toolkit](#).

**TAKE ACTION: Share your knowledge, and help others discover the importance of voting.**

(Do one activity from the following list.)

Not everyone agrees on what should be done in our communities. We talk with our elected officials to let them know what we feel. Voting is another way we let them know what we want.

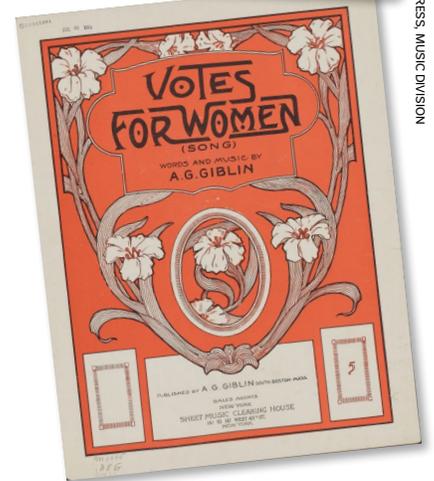
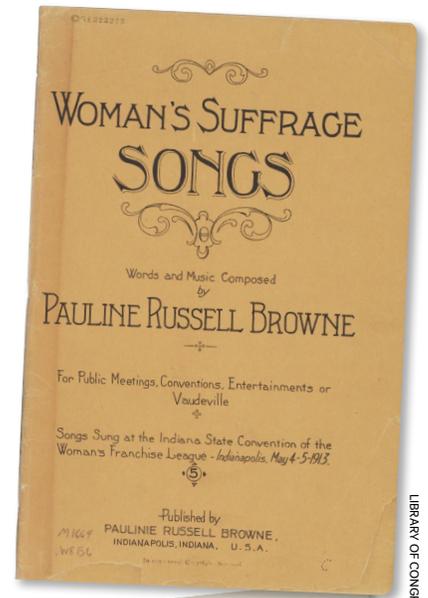
Think about what is important to your town or community, and create a one-minute talk and a poster to teach others about why it is important to vote on your issue. Your issue might be recycling, literacy/reading, protecting animals, the environment, or homelessness, for instance.

Some other ideas are:

- Create a song using a familiar tune about something that is important at your school.
- Create a bookmark or drawing about an issue you think is important.
- Record yourself speaking about why voting is important.
- Write a poem or limerick about what is important in your town or community. Limericks are often funny poems where the first, second and last lines rhyme, and the third and fourth lines rhyme. Here's a famous limerick by Edward Lear as an example:

*There was an Old Man with a beard,  
Who said, 'It is just as I feared!  
Two Owls and a Hen,  
Four Larks and a Wren,  
Have all built their nests in my beard!'*

However, not all poems rhyme, so feel free to write a poem that sounds like you!



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, MUSIC DIVISION

**People raised their voices in song for—and against—women's suffrage. Sheet music and songbooks helped them share the tunes.**



# Earn Your Suffrage Centennial Patch: A Guide for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

The Suffrage Centennial patch offers you a way to learn more about the history of voting, why it affects all of our lives, and how you can make a difference in your community. To earn your patch, complete 3 of the options under “Discover”; 2 of the options under “Connect”; and 1 of the options under “Take Action”. And when you’re finished, [order your own suffrage patch](#) from Girl Scouts of the USA! And wear it proudly.

## OBJECTIVE

To earn your Suffrage Centennial patch, you’ll explore why voting matters, find out about voting and elected officials in your own community, and take an action to persuade others to support a cause that is important to you.

### **DISCOVER: Learn about voting, suffrage, and elections.**

(Do three activities from the following list.)

- Why is it important to vote?
- Ask a female adult about their first time voting. Whom did they vote for and why?
- Learn about the local and national campaigns for women’s suffrage.
- Why were some people were opposed to women voting?
- Learn the definition of civil disobedience and research examples.
- Learn who represents you in the United States Congress and how to contact them to express your opinion on an issue important to you.
- Learn about the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. How do they connect to suffrage?



## BACKGROUND

Girl Scouts was founded in the final years of the suffrage campaigns, and many women supported both movements. For example, Edith Carpenter Macy and Mamie Williams (among many others) were both suffragists.

Girl Scouts’ emphasis on the importance of civics education and of understanding democracy and government began in 1918 with the first Civics badge, followed by a Citizens badge in 1920. This continues to be a priority today.

**Explore More:** To learn more about suffragists and their fight for the right to vote, download the complete [Suffrage Centennial Toolkit](#).

## CONNECT: Delve into your community.

(Do two activities from the following list.)

- Educate yourself on the importance of voting and civic engagement.
- Find out where a voting location is in your community.
- Learn who your elected officials are and what they do for the following positions:
  - ▶ Local—mayor, school board member, city council member
  - ▶ State—governor, state senator, and state representative
  - ▶ National—United States president, United States senator, and United States representative

*Suffragists organized marches, pickets, and huge processions to advocate for the right to vote.*



COURTESY OF ANN LEWIS AND MIKE SPONDER WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COLLECTION

## TAKE ACTION: Share your knowledge, and help others discover the importance of voting.

(Do one activity from the following list.)

- Select a local issue that will be voted on in an upcoming election and think of ways you can educate others about it or write a letter to your elected official about this issue. Don't know how to write a letter to an elected official? Check out [The Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act \(H.R. 1923, S. 2427\) project](#), which gives you lots of hints about how to do it! If you want to write to your elected official about a different issue, just change those parts but keep the same format.
- Research an organization that supports an issue that is important to you. Learn ways you can take action to make a difference in your community.
- Create a public service announcement about the importance of voting using audio, visual, or written mediums and present it to others. Some ideas are:
  - ▶ Create a song about voting using a familiar tune.
  - ▶ Design a webpage.
  - ▶ Make a mini-movie.
  - ▶ Write a newspaper article or op-ed piece.
  - ▶ Create a vlog.



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY, WASHINGTON D.C.



## Fun Art Projects about Suffrage

Here are two art projects you can do that are very much like what the early suffragists did to call attention to their cause. Choose one and put your own twist on it!

### MAKE YOUR OWN SUFFRAGE CAT

During the suffrage movement, women embraced Suffrage Cat as a symbol of their campaign for voting rights. Suffrage Cat became a beloved icon used on postcards and other printed materials. Now you can customize your own Suffrage Cat!

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Materials:**

- Suffrage Cat template
- Colored pencils or markers
- White glue
- Yarn
- Construction paper
- Ribbons
- Scissors .



COURTESY OF THE ANN LEWIS AND MIKE SPONDER WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COLLECTION

### CREATE A SUFFRAGE BANNER

By 1916 suffragists grew tired of waiting to gain voting rights, so they began to protest and picket in front of the White House. They used large fabric banners with bold text that listed their demands so that the president could easily read them. This type of action is called civil disobedience, and it is meant to attract attention to protesters' demands. Using the photo as an example, create a picket banner that will raise awareness about an injustice that you are passionate about.

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Materials:**

- Construction paper or large sheets of paper
- Colored markers
- Stencils



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY, WASHINGTON D.C.

*Banners decorated the headquarters of a pro-suffrage organization in Washington, D.C.*





# Take Action Now: The Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Coin Project

## Background

Girl Scouts aims to inspire girls to be leaders in their own lives by building the courage, confidence, and character to raise their voices and be advocates of issues and ideas important to them. The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.

**The Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act (H.R. 1923, S. 2427)** was introduced in the House of Representatives on March 27, 2019, by Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH). Identical legislation was introduced in the Senate on August 1, 2019, by Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) and Deb Fischer (R-NE).

The legislation would authorize a series of quarters to be minted in honor of women's history and suffrage. The Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act would create a new series of commemorative circulating coins that highlight women's suffragists and other trailblazers from the District of Columbia and each state and territory in the United States. States would help choose the women and accomplishments they wish to recognize by working with community groups and organizations like Girl Scout councils.

## Take Action!

You can make a difference and recognize the importance of women's suffrage and contributions in U.S. history. Use your voice to speak out in support of the Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act, using resources in Girl Scouts' online template:

- Educate family members and friends about the bill using our talking points
- Write a letter to your member of Congress with the template letter in the toolkit
- Engage others over social media to spread the word

By connecting with others on this issue, you can inspire them to take action, too!

# Make Your Voice Heard

## How to Find Your Legislators and Send a Message in Support of the Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act

How to find your legislators:

- Go to: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members>
- Enter your address and click the magnifying glass icon
- Your legislators (2 senators, 1 representative) should appear on the left side of the screen
- Your legislators' websites and contact information will be provided beneath their names

(*Note:* Each legislator has a district office and a Washington, DC, office. You will want to send your letter to the Washington, DC, office.)

Once you have identified your legislators, there are a few ways to contact them to ask for their support of the bill.

- Send an email (or use the contact form on their legislative website)
- Send a letter directly to their office (you can do this even if you've emailed!)
- Contact them via social media
- Call their office(s)

### How to send a letter:

A **sample letter** is provided on page 4. The letter should be personalized with your name and where you are from and addressed to the legislator you are writing to.

After you personalize the letter:

#### To send through the mail

- Print the letter
- Label an envelope with your name and address in the top left-hand corner
- The legislator's address will go in the center of the envelope

*Example:* The Honorable Buddy Carter

2432 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

- Place the letter inside the envelope, seal it, and stamp it
- You're ready to send it!

**OR**

#### To send via email

- Highlight the entire letter (after personalization)
- Right-click "Copy"
- Open email to send a new message
- Type legislator's email address in the "To" line

- In the subject line, write: “**Support the Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act**”)
- In the body of the message, right-click “Paste”
- Click “Send”!

### **How to contact your legislators via social media:**

**Sample social media posts** are provided below on page 5 to help you lobby your members of Congress via Twitter, Facebook, and even Instagram!

You can find your legislators' social media handles with their contact information.

### **How to contact your legislators via phone call:**

**Talking points** on page 6 can assist you in making your case to your members of Congress on why it is important to support the Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act.

- Call your legislator's Washington, DC, office
- It is not likely that you will be able to speak to the actual legislator, but the staff member who answers the phone will relay your message to them
- Tell the staff member who you are, where you are from, and why supporting the Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act is important to you.

# Sample Letter

The Honorable [FIRST NAME] [LAST NAME]  
United States [Senate/House of Representatives]  
Washington, DC [20510/20515]

[DATE]

Dear [Senator/Representative] [LAST NAME]:

My name is [name] and I am a Girl Scout from [city], [state]. As our country recognizes the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, paving the way for women's right to vote, I ask you to support the bipartisan Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act (H.R. 1923, S. 2427). Introduced by Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH) in the House of Representatives, and Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) and Deb Fischer (R-NE) in the Senate, this legislation would create a new series of commemorative circulating coins that highlight women suffragists and other trailblazers from the District of Columbia and each state and territory in the United States.

Passing the Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act would promote learning about women whose advocacy made it possible for more people to participate in our democracy. As a Girl Scout, I'm grateful for the opportunity to raise my voice, and I look forward to one day casting a ballot, thanks to the work of suffragists in every state. Please cosponsor the Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act to honor the centennial of women's suffrage today!

Sincerely,

[NAME]

## Suggested Social Media Posts

Post any of the below messages on social media and be sure to tag your Member of Congress!

- I am a Girl Scout. @YourMemberOfCongress I support the Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act (H.R. 1923/S. 242) because remarkable women who have contributed to our country's progress deserve more recognition
- Celebrate the 19th Amendment Centennial! @YourMemberOfCongress cosponsor the Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act (H.R. 1923/S. 242)
- The centennial of the 19th amendment is important to me because \_\_\_\_\_. @YourMemberOfCongress help celebrate this important anniversary by cosponsoring H.R. 1923/S. 242!
- @YourMemberOfCongress support the bipartisan Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act! (H.R. 1923/S. 242)
- In honor of the 19th Amendment Centennial, @YourMemberOfCongress cosponsor the Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act (H.R. 1923/S. 242) today.

## Talking Points

- 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States constitution, which gave women the right to vote.
- Girl Scouts celebrates this occasion by rallying multiple generations around the centennial through national and local council engagement initiatives and partnerships to increase awareness of past suffrage achievements.
- This is also an opportunity to highlight the importance of civic education in Girl Scouts and engage girls across our Movement and those who care about them to lead positive change through civic engagement opportunities.
- Girl Scouts are taking civic action to honor this important date in history for women by advocating for legislation that will celebrate the centennial of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment and increase gender diversity and representation on our currency.
- Girl Scouts supports the bipartisan effort to pass the ***Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act*** that was introduced in the House of Representatives on March 27, 2019, by Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH) and is currently cosponsored by 112 bipartisan members of the House of Representatives. Identical legislation was introduced in the Senate on August 1, 2019, by Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) and Deb Fischer (R-NE).
- Beginning in 2021, the legislation would authorize a series of quarters to be minted in honor of women's history and suffrage.
  - Using the 50 States Quarters Program as a model, this Act would create a new series of commemorative circulating coins that highlight women suffragists and other trailblazers from the District of Columbia and each state and territory in the United States.
- States would help choose the women and accomplishments they wish to recognize by working with community groups and organizations like Girl Scout councils.
- Girl Scouts encourages those who wish to honor women's history and the 100th anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to use their voices and encourage Congress to pass this bill.